

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS TO SANDERS AID/AFR/RA FROM CONROY

PARIS FOR HELMAN

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID EEC SG UV

SUBJECT: SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAINS

REF: STATE 285428

1. CONROY EXPLAINED SAFGRAD PROJECT TO MR. GUNTHER GRUNER, DIVISION CHIEF FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC). GRUNER INDICATED EC HAD BEEN ASSISTING GOVERNMENT SENEGAL FOR FOUR YEARS WITH MILLET/SORGHUM RESEARCH AT BAMBEY. EC NOW ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP REGIONAL FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY FOR WHICH IT HAS BUDGETED ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION BUT IT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY DEVELOPING REGIONAL FOCUS FOR THIS PROJECT. EC ALSO WANTS TO DESIGN AN ACTIVITY WHICH IS BROADER THAN "BASIC" RESEARCH AND WHICH OFFERS POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING RESULTS. GRUNER MENTIONED PROBLEMS WITH BAMBEY WHICH WANTS TO RUN ITS OWN SHOW.

2. GRUNER HAS CONFIDENCE IN ICRISAT BUT CANNOT CONTRACT WITH IT DIRECTLY, UNLESS HE HAS FIRST RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM A

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OR AN APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

OAU/STRC IS NOT "APPROVED" ORGANIZATION FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

3. CONROY SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF EC FINANCING SOME OF ICRISAT SCIENTISTS PROPOSED FOR KAMBOINSE UNDER SAFGRAD AS MEANS OF ACHIEVING EC OBJECTIVE OF CONTINUING RESEARCH IN SORGHUM/MILLET AND OF EXTENDING RESULTS TO OTHER SAHELIAN COUNTRIES. GRUNER URGED THAT CHARLES SANDERS CONTACT MR. BILQUEZ, EC AGRICULTURALIST IN DAKAR WHO CAN BE REACHED THROUGH MR. SENE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN DAKAR. (HE DID NOT KNOW SANGER.) HE MENTIONED THAT CLAUDE CHARREAU, ICRISAT DAKAR, WAS ALSO FAMILIAR THEIR PROJECT AND WANTED TO EXTEND IT. HE ALSO URGED SANDERS TO STOPOVER IN BRUSSELS AFTER HIS AFRICAN TRIP. BILQUEZ WILL BE IN BRUSSELS ON DECEMBER 17 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE EC REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT.

4. GRUNER ALSO SUGGESTED THAT CONROY DISCUSS SAFGRAD WITH MRS. VON BROCHOWSKI, EC DELEGATE, AND EC AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS BRETECHE AND PIVETTA IN UPPER VOLTA. (WAFFELEARTS IS NOW IN ETHIOPIA.)

5. COMMENT: GRUNER CLEARLY LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONTINUE FOOD GRAIN ASSISTANCE AND IS NOT AGAINST PARTICIPATING IN SAFGRAD. HE SAYS THAT BILQUEZ HAS BEEN UNIMAGINATIVE AND HAS CONCENTRATED ON BASIC RESEARCH RATHER THAN DESIGNING A BROAD PROJECT. AS GRUNER SUGGESTED, SANDERS MIGHT DISCUSS SAFGRAD THOROUGHLY WITH BILQUEZ/CHARREAU. EC HOPEFULLY WILL FINANCE THREE OR FOUR OF ICRISAT POSITIONS AT KAMBOINSE AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO ACPO POSITIONS (PERHAPS MALI AND ONE OTHER), IF THIS IS WITHIN EC FUNDING/PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. THIS WOULD REQUIRE REQUEST PRESUMABLY FROM UPPER VOLTA (OR CILSS OR CEAD) TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION. CONROY WILL ALSO EXPLORE THIS APPROACH IN UPPER VOLTA. CONROY DID NOT EXPLORE SUPPORT FOR TRAINING OR OTHER ASPECTS OF PROJECT AS THIS WILL FALL IN PLACE IF OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR EC PARTICIPATION CAN BE FOUND.

6. REALIZE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR SANDERS TO RETURN VIA BRUSSELS, BUT IN TERMS DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS, THIS IS PROBABLY MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN PARIS STOPOVER. SUGGEST SANDERS SEND ICRISAT PROPOSAL TO ROBERT WARNE, USEC, FOR DELIVERY TO GRUNER. CONROY WILL ADVISE SANDERS
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OF RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH EC OFFICIALS OUAGADOUGOU. HINTON

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